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Serial No. 10/720,571
Response to Official Action

In the Drawings

There are no amendments to the drawings.

Remarks

Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-40 and submitted new Claims 41-58. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter was added by the amendment, as all of the amended matter was either previously illustrated or described in the drawings, written specification and/or claims of the present application. Entry of the amendment and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested.

The Claims require, among other limitations, a cable including a pair of wires, for transmitting image data and camera information from the camera to the camera control unit, and a light guide for transmitting illuminating light from the light source to the camera, the image data and camera information multiplexed on the pair of wires.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither U.S. Patent No. 5,311,859 ("Monroe et al.") nor U.S. Patent No. 4,356,534 ("Hattori") teach, disclose or suggest these limitations. For example, not only does Monroe et al. fail to teach or suggest use of a multiplexer, Monroe et al. teaches that the "umbilical 30" comprises multiple conductors, none of which are multiplexed. (See, Col. 3, lines 22-26 & 59-62; Col. 5, lines 19-25; Col. 6, lines 10-13). Additionally, Hattori is directed to a "Light Supply Device For An Endoscope" and fails to teach any type of conductors for transmission of image or camera data and/or information.

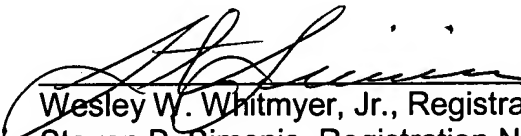
Therefore, because neither Monroe et al. nor Hattori teach, disclose or suggest a cable including a pair of wires, for transmitting image data and camera information from

the camera to the camera control unit, and a light guide for transmitting illuminating light from the light source to the camera, the image data and camera information multiplexed on the pair of wires as required by the claims, no combination thereof can render the pending claims obvious.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 41-58, all of the claims remaining in the application, are in order for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,

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